

Thank God for that, for I can scarcely hope to stand before him for myself much less for other's sins. Then if I am to appear for myself, I should act as my heavenborn conscience by the word of God, directs. And if the Word of God is to judge me, I must cling to it as my guide and rule of life. Where that speaks I must heed, and where it does not speak out plainly, then on that subject there is liberty. And where God allows liberty man should not assume to do more than God.

Bro. I. D. Bowman says we should have "moon" day communions, one or two kinds of communion bread, fermented or unfermented wine at communion" and discussed at the National Conference.

Now I think the discussion of such questions at a National Conference of the Brethren is beneath the dignity of the Conference and out of place.

It is not the business of the district conference even to condescend to such hair splitting, and "contentions about the law, which are vain and profitless," much less to take such church divides to the National Conference. Such questions, if discussed at all should be settled in the councils of the congregations when they exist and belong.

I like to see unity in all the congregations so far as Christ being all and in all, and so far as obeying all the essential teachings of the word of God, but when it comes meddling in matters of local import, and upon which the word of God is silent, then it is wise to refuse to legislate. Questions of this kind can only tend to create contentions which the word of God says we should avoid, and discord and disruptions, and not peace and harmony. If one or more congregations use fermented or unfermented wine, I think both should be allowed to settle their own questions and not have a conference decree, and endeavor to enforce that which God has not commanded. God knows, and we know that we have living questions that should engage our attention at conference without dealing in dead issues.

Plans to extend Christ's kingdom here on earth; to awaken the dead in the church; to live close to Christ; to help one another along life's path-

way, should command our attention and have our hearts burning with love for Christ and the dying world.

To open up foreign missions, to extend home missions are manly questions which only men can formulate and execute.

To speak on subjects which tend to produce spiritual growth in the individual the family and the church are living questions and are needful questions.

There is no life in the discussion of such a letter-of-the-law question, for it kills, but the spirit gives life and peace  
Fisher's Hill, Va.

#### HAVE I A MISSION ?

BY J. J. VANDERRE.

If you are in any doubt, my brother or sister, as to whether or no you have a divine mission here upon God's footstool, then listen to the voice of God's only Son and hear what he has to say: The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few." "Go ye, therefore; even if you must go to work at the eleventh hour, for it is better late than never, but is better still *never late*, and do something toward gathering up and bringing home the sheaves for the world's great harvest. Your reward will not only be sure but very great. Even to know that we stand in favor with the Great King of all heaven and earth will alone abundantly reward us for what little we do here toward rescuing perishing souls. The work must be done and some one must do it.

What if we cannot cross the wide ocean to heathen lands and call them to the Lord, we certainly can find some poor famishing soul on this side of the great Atlantic or Pacific, and that many times in a place and a person that we are not looking for. This explains to us the need of sowing the good seed in all places where we may happen to be; whether at church, at prayer meeting, at our daily avocations or else where. Paul may plant, Appolis may water, but it is God that giveth the increase.

Should you have no dollars at your command to help the cause along, you can do as the poor widow, you can give your mite, for it is not always the case that the biggest pile is the most precious in the sight of God. Supposing

you are not able to speak, or sing or pray like others, is that any sign that you have no business at all? No indeed; for you can go, in your weakness and talk to some poor brother or sister or child and encourage them with what you can of the good old story, and if it should happen that in talking to a hardened sinner you are not able to arouse him or her to a sense of their duty do not get discouraged and stop still right there, the next one may do different; that is just what I did when the good people talked to me; I listened. Should your mission not be to stand as a watchman on the walls of Zion, you can watch other things; notably among these is yourself.

You that are not superintendents at Sunday Schools, may be all the better scholars to learn of the Lord, remembering always that in a flock there are not only the healthy to feed but there are also the sick and disabled ones to look after; and there are, too, the lambs of the flock to nourish and feed. Even if they can not digest the solid food they need the sincere milk of the truth that they may grow there by, and then at maturity they can stand something more solid. It may be, and very likely will be the case that when we reach eternity's shore that someone's hand will grasp ours in glad surprise of welcome and greet us with; "Oh, only for you I may not have reached this heavenly home. The Saviour says: "He that is not for us is against us." Again, "He that is not found among us gathering is surely scattering abroad. "Let us be very careful about this matter and do not let the Lord hear us saying "there is nothing I can do."

Let us also be kindly affectionate one to another, for perhaps if some of us knew what would be our lot or the lot of our loved one's tomorrow, we would not be so slow at this plan of salvation. Let us remember that remorse is a terrible thing. We should ever so endeavor to live that our account may be squared up every night; for we never can know what a day may bring forth, or what shall be on the morrow. Our life is but a vapor. Today we are and tomorrow we vanish away. Such are the great and important truths recorded by our great leader. Yes, Brethren and Sisters, surely we have a mission to perform. Let us all be up and doing so that reader and writer may not be found wanting when weighed in God's balance.

Cornell, Ill.